

K-18 Metcalfe apartments
Chestertown
private

late 18th century

Although extensive restoration would be required to bring this dwelling back to anything approaching its original form, its 5-bay late 18th century ~~form~~ skeleton --very similar in general design and many details to the Powers House around the corner on Maple Avenue--can still be recognized. In its present form, its historical significance is minimal.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Metcalfe Apartments

X-10

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corner Water Street and Maple Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE
☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ OTHER: apts

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Gilbert A. Bliss

Telephone #: 235-0290

STREET & NUMBER

3716 Greenmount Avenue

CITY, TOWN

~~Chestertown~~ Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE zip code

Maryland 21218

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Office of the County Clerk

Liber #: EHP 66
Folio #: 869

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-18

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR
☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Metcalfe Apartments is a large frame house built close to the street on the northwest corner of the intersection of Maple Avenue and Water Street in Chestertown. It is on the northeast half of Town Lot 15 on the Original Plot of Chestertown. It is quite similar in general conception and some detail to 108 Maple Avenue around the corner.

It appears to have been through several stages of alteration, but as it presently stands, it is a 2½-story, 5-bay L-shaped house, the wing squared to the south (left) gable end. The front section of the house has an "A" roof with two gabled dormers (on both front and rear roofs) and a 1-bay, full height central gable between them, which we guess is not original (the central gable on 108 Maple is not). Below the central gable is a 1-bay, 2-story portico which replaced a single story nineteenth century portico in the 1940's or 1950's, during the house's latest remodeling.

The facade is symmetrical. The house sits on a painted brick basement and is sided in clapboard. There are full-height pilasters at the corners of the facade and on the north (right rear) corner of the north gable end. The entire present portico has a high brick porch with semi-circular brick steps ascending it from both sides. The door is 6-paneled and the top pair of panels have window panes in them. The door is framed by pilasters and a very low relief cornice with dentils. The portico has a pair of square pillars in its front corners and a pair of half pillars against the facade. It has a plain box cornice which meets and matches the main cornice of the house. The roof of the portico is flat.

The windows on the first and second stories of the facade are 6/6 double hung sash and have ~~wooden louvered shutters~~ louvered shutters. The photograph in Fred Usilton's Chestertown: Gem City on the Chester indicates that bay windows were on either side of the entrance in the late nineteenth century.

The dormer windows are 2/2 and have decorative tracery on the wood freizes over them. There is a single short lancet window in the central gable. The roof is of composition shingles. There is a large chimney within the south gable end and a smaller one within the north gable end.

****INSERT****

The L-wing is the same height as the main section, is four bays long, and has an "A" roof with three gabled dormers. According to the outline of the building on the 1877 Map of Chestertown, this wing appears to be a late nineteenth century addition to the house--after 1877 but before 1900 when Usilton's book came out--presumably by William Vannort, who purchased the house from the Wickes in 1882. It is quite likely that the single story 19th century porticos (there was one on the southwest gable end in addition to the main entrance) were Vannort's also: they resemble very closely those on 103 Queen Street, a house he owned from 1868 until he died.

Final alterations to the house include an additional shed roof section added to the end of the L and the filling in of the open side of the L, both alterations done at some time during the present century.

****The south (left) gable end has one 6/6 window in the left bay where the side portico used to be and a small 1-story shed in the right bay. There is one 6/6 window in the 2nd bay of the second story and there are two small attic windows in the gable. There is a short cornice return. The north (right) gable end has two 2/2 windows on either side of the exposed back of the fireplace on the first story, one 2/2 window in the left bay and evidence of a window having been boarded up in the right on the second story, and two small attic windows in the gable. There is a short cornice return.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES late 18th century

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There is no telling exactly when the original frame dwelling that has turned into the present Metcalfe Apartments was built, but its style is a mixture of eighteenth and nineteenth century features and most of the latter appear to be alterations. There is documentary evidence the house may have been built before 1780 when Daniel Matzlar paid William Stevenson 444 2/3 bushels of wheat for Water Lot 9 (vacant) and the half of Town Lot 15 the present house is on. The other half of 15 and Water Lot 10 (both of which may have been vacant) went for only 222 bushels.

The property remained in the Metzlar family until 1790 when Daniel sold it for £250 to Robert Wright. It was sold again in 1801, this time for £100 to Richard Barroll with mention in the deed of "tenements and premises," so we've very likely got our house built by then.

Both this house and 108 Maple would have handsome restoration projects, though the task would be considerably greater on this house than the other. There are very few eighteenth century frame houses in the county.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-18

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

On Town Lot 15, being on the corner of Front Street and Maple Avenue in Chestertown, having a frontage of 85 feet, 10 inches on Front Street and 72 feet on Maple Avenue.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Neill Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Town of Chestertown

STREET & NUMBER

DATE

May, 1976

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Summary of Title Search: Metcalfe Apartments

John Calder to

Liber 7-429 (1734) £100 sterling

John Bordenley, merchant, ~~bequeathed~~ Town Lot 15 and Water Lots 9 and 10
~~for £100 sterling in 1734. See John Calder Liber 7-429~~

John Bordenley wills the property to his wife, Isabella in 1761. Wills Liber h 124

Isabella marries William Stevenson in 1761.

Wm. Stevenson and Isabella transfer property to Robert Sterling, atty. and
back again to secure title. DD 1 25^{am} DD 1 27. (1761)

William Stevenson to Daniel Matzlar DD 5 535 (1780) 444 2/3 bushels of wheat ¹⁰
(northeast half of lot 15 and Water lot ¹⁰); other half of lot 15 and Water lot ¹⁰ to
Simon Wickes for 222 bushels

Daniel¹ Matzlar to John Matzlar (son) EF 6 135 (1782)

John Matzlar to Daniel¹ Matzlar BC 3 111 (1790)

Robert

Daniel¹ Matzlar to Richard Wright BC h 123 (1790) £250

Richard Robert Wright to Richard Barroll NW 1 654 (1801) £400
("society of Town Lot 15...and tenements, premises")

James E. Barroll, trustee for sale of all property of Richard Barroll, deceased
to Thomas Davis WS 3 404 (1822) (deed says a Jeremiah Nicols is tenant
of Thomas Davis at this time)

Henrietta Davis, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~, to James A. Pearce, trustee of
estate of Davis xx JNS 11 239 (1846) \$650

James A Pearce, trustee to Richard S. Thomas JNS 12 224 (1849)

Richard Thomas to Mary S. Thomas JNS 12 225 (1849) \$750

Mary S. Thomas wills property to Henrietta Bruff for life and after her death to
Mary E. Wickes Green, she being the sister of the Joseph Wickes, Peregrine L.
Wickes, and Sarah A. Wickes.

Joseph A. Wickes et al. to Augusta Wickes, Francis Wickes, and Mary G. Wickes.
DCB 2 209 (1876)

James A. Pearce, trustee for several Wickes in dispute, to William J. Vannort
JTD 6 244 (1882)

Vannort wills property to Harry G. Simpers, et al.

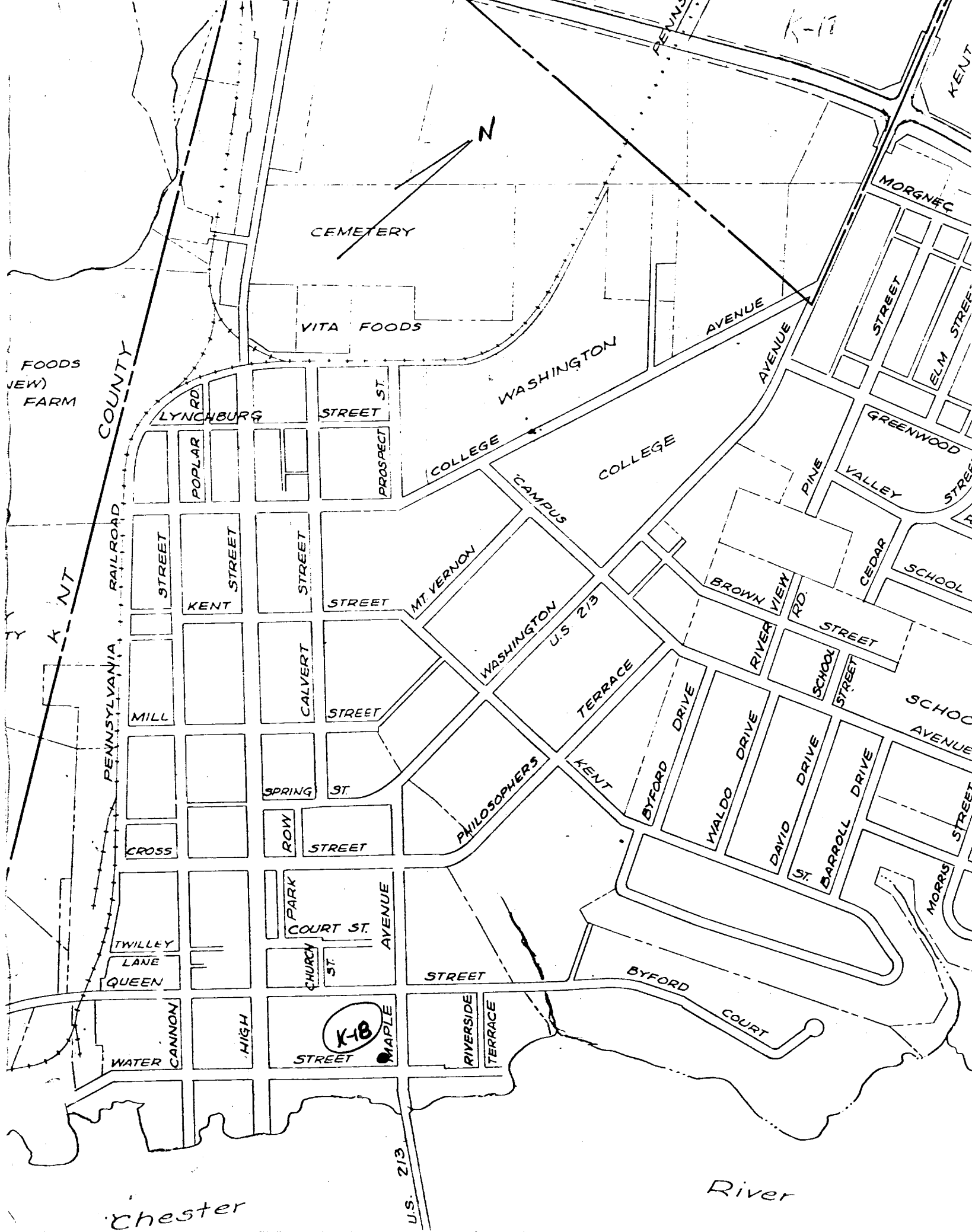
Harry G. Simpers et al. to R. Ellis Clark RAS 6 436 (1931)

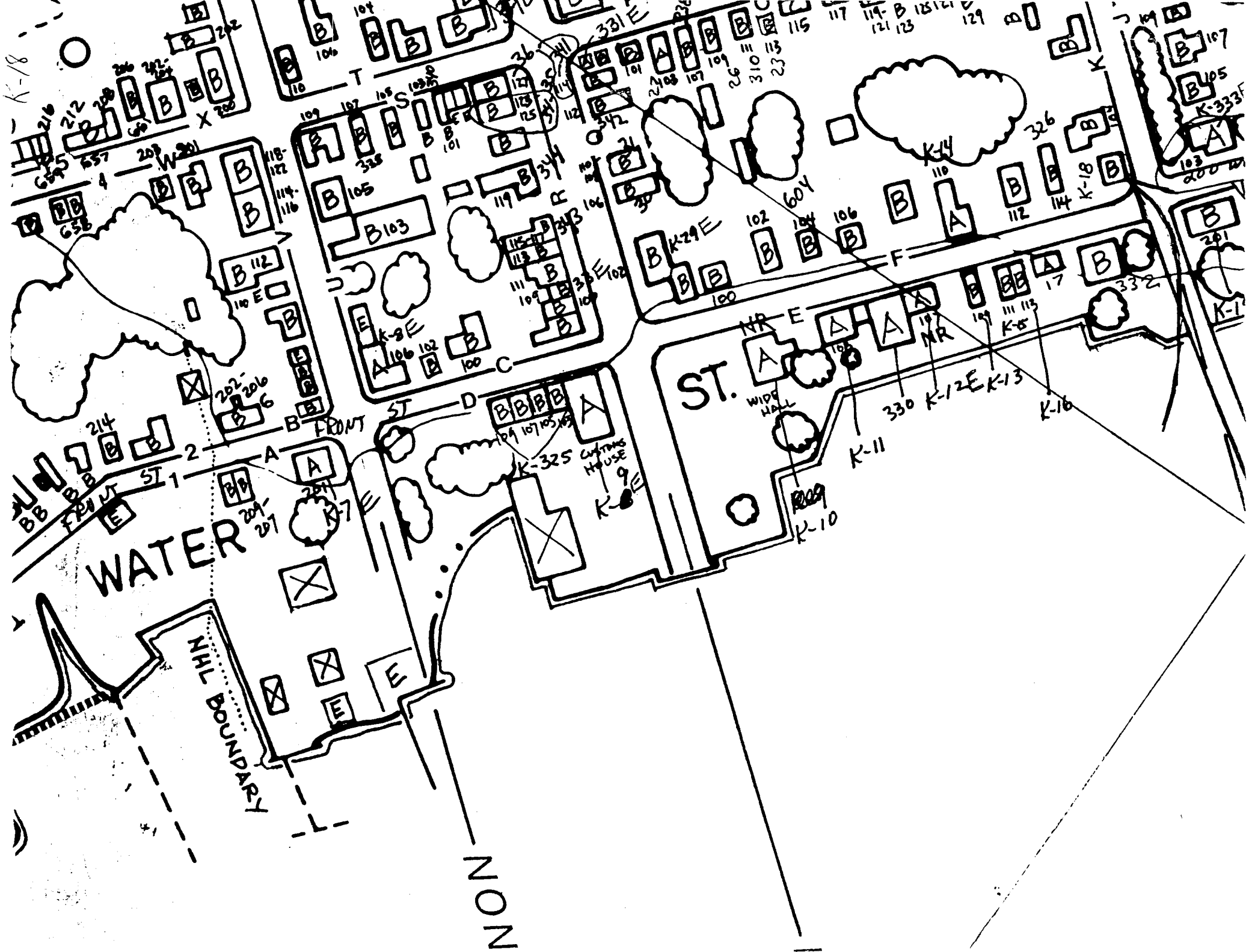
R. Ellis Clark to J. Raymond Simpers RAS 9 370 (1932)

J. Raymond Simpers to George H. Gardner, Jr. RAS 38 13 (1946)

S. Scott Beck, Jr., assignee (for Geo. H. Gardner) to James G. Metcalfe WNS 2h 522 (1952)

Lillian Metcalfe to Gilbert A. Bliss RWP 66 869 (1976)







K 18 Metcalf Apt. Corner Water & Maple
1/77 E & S views



K 18 Metcalfe Apts. corner Water & Maple
1/77 East